**Construction of primary schools in Uttar Pradesh under operation black board**

607. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been granted for constructing buildings for schools in Uttar Pradesh during the next one year under the Operation Black Board; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The Uttar Pradesh State Level Empowered Committee for Operation Blackboard approved the implementation of the scheme, including the construction of school buildings in 20 per cent blocks/municipal areas selected for coverage by that State Government in 1987-88 under first phase of the scheme. The State Level Empowered Committee has not met for 1988-89.

According to information aavilable, 2311 school buildings are required to be constructed in the first phase. Funds for construction are to be raised from NREP/RLEGP, VIIIth Finance Commission, State Education Sector Plan, etc.

**Attracting Operations of Foreign Airlines Through Calcutta Airport**

608. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any new steps for attracting more foreign airlines to fly through Calcutta Airport;

(b) what are the foreign Airlines which have of late, shown interest in the matter;

(c) what steps Government have taken to rejuvenate the engineering unit of Calcutta Airport; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to fix Calcutta as the base for any new variety of aircraft which are to be acquired by the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) With a view to promoting Calcutta, the Government have been offering Calcutta as a point of call to all foreign airlines during air services talks Foreign airlines willing to operate to Calcutta are offered preferential terms in commercial arrangements for unilateral operations.

(b) Aeroflot, Bangladesh Biman, Druk Air of Bhutan, Jat-Yugoslav airlines, Royal Nepal airlines, Royal Jordanian airlines, Singapore airlines and Thai airways have been operating to/via Calcutta. The airlines of Bulgaria and Poland have agreed in principle to operate to Calcutta.

(c) In addition to the facilities available for overhauling of fuel components, pneumatic components, high flow items and electrical components like CSD, Generators, etc. of jet aircraft, overhauling of the Auxiliary Power Unit and overhaul of Ground Jet Starters, it has been decided to entrust Calcutta Base with the responsibility of carrying out full maintenance on some D-737 aircraft.

(d) No, Sir.

**Promotion of cultural tourism in Maharashtra**

609. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps taken by Government to promote cultural tourism in Maharashtra; and

(b) what are the names of those tourist spots in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Receipt of proposals and sanction of Central Financial assistance to states for creation of tourism infrastructure is an ongoing process. Each year, the Ministry invites proposals from the State Governments/Union Territories for inclusion in the Annual Plans of the Ministry These

proposals are included in the Annual Plans subject to the framework and the guidelines laid down in the 7th 5 year Plan. For 1988-89, the Ministry has received proposals from the State Governments/ Union Territories and these relate to central financial assistance for infrastructure development at tourist centres, cultural tourism, beach tourism; wildlife tourism, yatri niwases; adventure and sports tourism, flood lighting of monuments, sound and lightshows etc. The Ministry does not allocate funds either State-wise or project-wise but scheme-wise. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States for creation of tourism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments. These proposals are taken up for financial assistance subject to the potential of the place, existing infrastruture existing and projected tourist traffic, overall merits of the proposal, viability of the project, availability of the project, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

**Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education**

610. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held in the second week of September, 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held and conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of education are given in the attached statement. [*See* Appendix CXLVIII Annexure No. 30].

**Shortage of maritime officers**

611. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether shipping industry in the country is facing shortage of maritime officers, especially nevigating and engineering officers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Some of the shipping companies have reported shortage of merchant navy officers.

(b) The intake of cadets in T.S. Rajendra and Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, Calcutta has been increased.

**Tritium obtained by Pakistan for nuclear warheads**

612. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is making efforts to obtain Tritium, an element used to increase the power of nuclear warheads, in order to develop thermonuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of such reports.

(b) Government maintain a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security. Our apprehensions regarding the clandestine procurement by Pakistan of materials for its weapons-oriented nucelar programme have been conveyed to all concerned.